

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claim 12. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A billiard cue comprising:  
a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch, the skin of the composite material having a thickness that varies continuously along a length of the shaft from a thinner skin towards a front end to a thicker skin toward a back end.

14. (Canceled)